

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 3, 2010

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: T&ES STAFF

SUBJECT: STAFF UPDATES

A. TRANSITWAY CORRIDOR FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Transitway Corridor Feasibility Study is currently being conducted by the City of Alexandria for the purpose of investigating the feasibility of implementing dedicated corridor transit service in the city in three corridors – US 1, Van Dorn/Beauregard, and Duke Street. Staff and the City's consultant (Kimley-Horn) provided an overview of the project to the Transportation Commission at its October 6, 2010 meeting. Coordination between the Transitway Corridor Feasibility Study is essential, and will require input related to the recommended land uses within the Beauregard corridor. Likewise, the transit options for the Van Dorn/Beauregard Corridor will provide input for the Beauregard Corridor Small Area Plan. The overall project is preliminarily anticipated to be complete by late 2011 with an accelerated schedule for the Beauregard/Van Dorn corridor anticipated for completion by May 2011.

In order that this work can be vetted through members of the community regularly, the City Manager appointed a small working group of citizens (known as the High Capacity Transit Corridor Work Group) from throughout the City to review technical and financial issues which are likely to arise as the consultants and staff develop the study. The mission of the Corridor Work Group (CWG) is to provide citizen inputs to such issues as route alignments, cross-sections, methods of operation, types of vehicles which should be used in these corridors at specific times, land use considerations, ridership, and financial implications. The CWG includes the following representatives: two members of Council, one representative from the Planning Commission, one representative of the Transportation Commission, one representative of the Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission, one representative of the Chamber of Commerce and three people appointed by the Community Federation. A CWG public meeting was held on October 21, 2010. The meeting included a project overview, technology options, the role / mission of the CWG, project schedule, a project workshop (to identify key issues, ideas, and action items). A public comment period was also provided. Standing meetings have been scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of each month.

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B. JOINT ALEXANDRIA COUNCIL / ARLINGTON BOARD MEETING

A Joint Alexandria Council / Arlington Board meeting was held on October 14, 2010 in Arlington. The meeting included two transportation agenda items, including the Crystal City-Potomac Yard Transitway, and the Columbia Pike Streetcar. An overview of both projects was provided to the elected officials and public. Related to the Crystal City-Potomac Yard Transitway, the elected officials generally agreed that significant investments in multi-modal transportation investments, including high capacity transit, are needed to support the future growth in the region. Discussion focused on the feasibility and coordination of technologies, and the need for improved connectivity between the two cities. Since the joint meeting, the City approved the City's participation with Arlington County in an environmental analysis to study streetcars as a possible mode choice in the corridor.

Related to the Columbia Pike Streetcar, the elected officials generally concurred that the project is of high priority for joint participation. Discussion focused on the need to provide connectivity between the two communities and to the growing Northern Virginia Community College campus, and the need to leverage funding sources.